

What are the new post-16 options?

What?

The Government have recently announced changes to the options available to students at the post-16 stage.

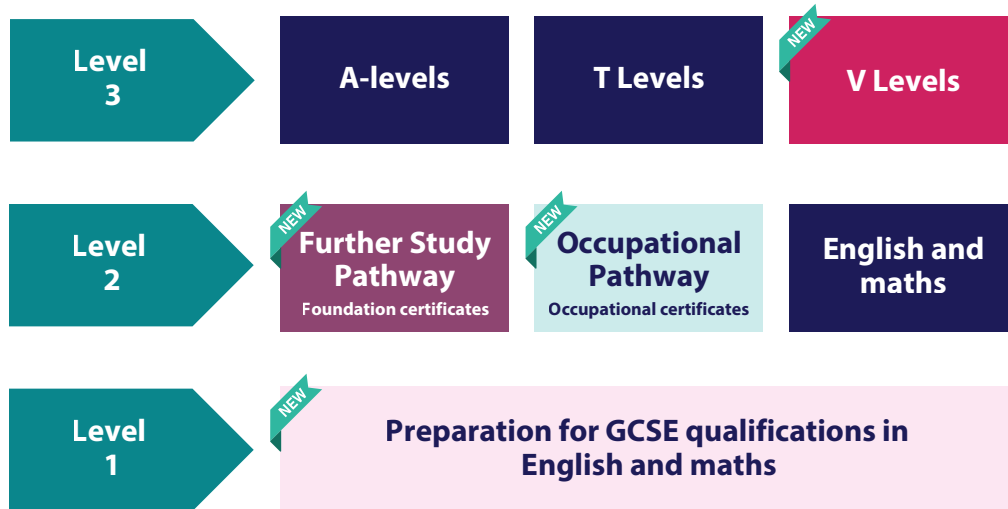
Why?

To make sure it is really clear what the options are for you and that you can gain the skills, knowledge and behaviours employers and the wider economy need.

When?

The first new courses are planned to start in September 2027, with different courses being rolled out until 2030/31.

New and existing post-16 options



What's new?

A-levels and T Levels are joined by V Levels at level 3

Two new level 2 pathways (roughly the same level as GCSE) are available to support students into further study or work

New level 1 GCSE qualifications provide a foundation year ahead of level 2 GCSE resit(s)

V Levels - key facts

- Level 3 vocational qualifications.
- Two-year course.
- For 16-19 year olds who would like to explore sectors without specialising.
- Taught in schools and colleges.
- Similar in size to one A-level.
- Multiple V Levels can be taken in combination with other qualifications such as A-levels or level 2 English or maths.
- First subjects available from September 2027 in Education & Early Years, Finance & Accounting and Digital.
- Content based on the skills you need for real jobs - the same framework used for T Levels and apprenticeships.
- Nationally recognised qualification.
- Most of assessment will be non-exam and will be through practical tasks.
- Attract UCAS points.

Further Study Pathway - key facts

- Level 2, classroom-based option.
- One-year programme.
- For 16-19 year olds who want to and are capable of progressing to further study at level 3 (T Levels/A-levels or V Levels).
- Taught in schools and colleges.
- Includes a Foundation Certificate, a vocational qualification.
- Content includes English and/or maths, enrichment activities and exposure to level 3 teaching.

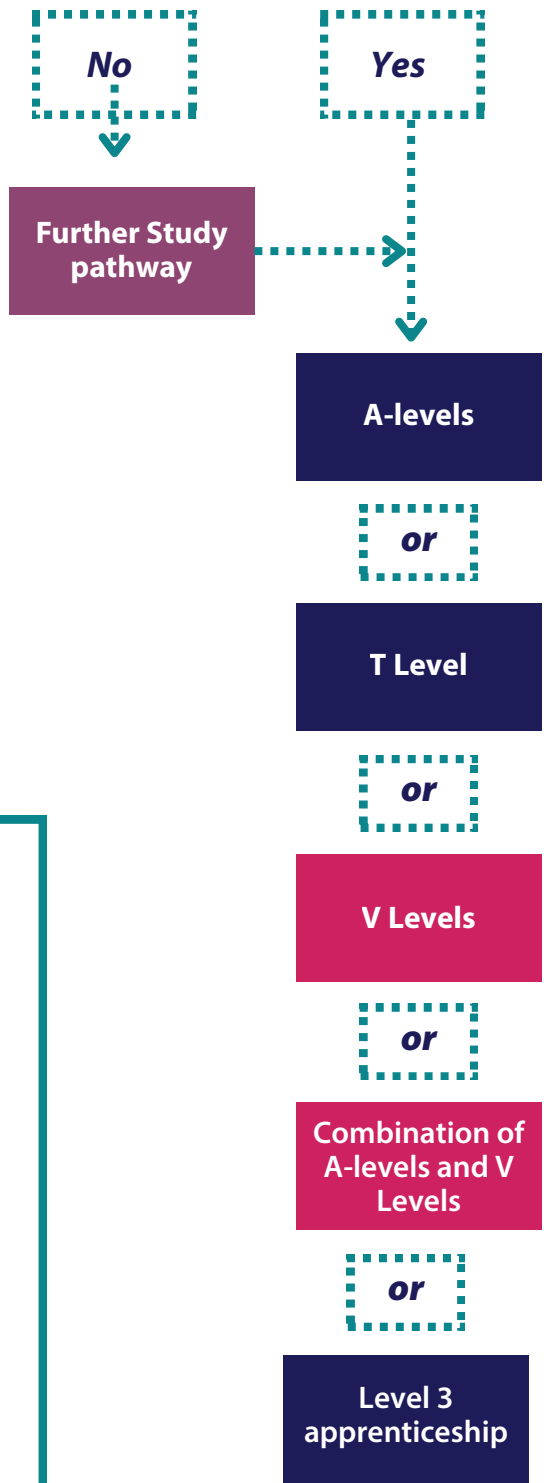
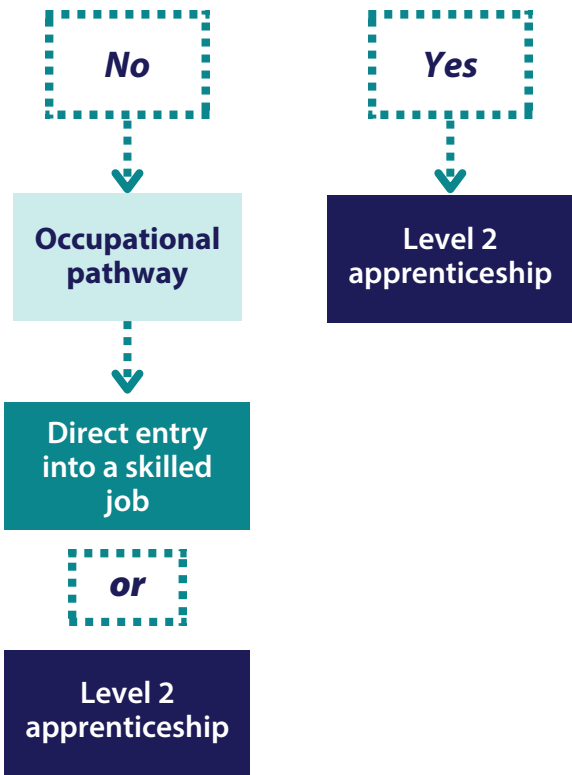
Occupational Pathway - key facts

- Level 2, classroom-based option.
- Two-year programme.
- For 16-19 year olds who want to enter a particular level 2 occupation and need to develop their technical knowledge and skills.
- Taught in colleges and other training providers.
- Includes an Occupational Certificate, a technical qualification.
- Content includes English and/or maths, enrichment activities, core content and occupation-specific learning

Taken GCSEs (or equivalent) and ready for a post-16 pathway?

Ready to work and learn at level 2?

Ready for study at level 3 or an apprenticeship?



GCSE English or maths at Grade 3 or below?

	Two-year pathway	
	Year 1 post-16	Year 2 post-16
Grade 2 or below	Level 1 GCSE stepping-stone	GCSE resit
Grade 3	GCSE resit	Continue GCSE if needed
SEND/low attainment	Entry/Level 1 Functional Skills	Progression as appropriate